PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE CHAIR OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND REQUEST FOR A STATE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code provides that the Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) may proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County of Los Angeles (County) is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board finds that, beginning on March 4, 2020, conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arose as a result of the introduction of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"), a novel communicable disease, which was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 has since spread globally to over 68 countries, infecting more than 90,000 persons and killing more than 3,000 individuals worldwide. As of March 3, 2020, there were 60 COVID-19 cases identified in the United States, including 43 cases in California. In Los Angeles County, there have been five confirmed cases of COVID-19, with additional test results pending. Due to the expanding list of countries with widespread transmission of COVID-19, increasing travel alerts and warnings for countries experiencing sustained or uncontrolled community transmission issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the escalation of United States domestic cases of and deaths from COVID-19, and the identification of COVID-19 cases in California, including Los Angeles County, COVID-19 has created conditions that are or likely to be beyond the control of local resources and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2020, the CDC confirmed the first possible case of community spread of COVID-19 in the United States. Over the past week, there has been a significant escalation of United States domestic cases of and deaths from COVID-19. The Health Officer of Los Angeles County has determined that there is an imminent and proximate threat to the public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County, and has concurrently declared a Local Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Chair of the Board that a local emergency exists in Los Angeles County, and the local emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of the County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that the Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in Los Angeles County; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

Date: March 4, 2020

Aathryn Bargei

Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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